

## WIDA Remote Screener Frequently Asked Questions 2020-2021

*Note: The questions and answers provided in this FAQ are based on the available information as of the date below. As new information is available or GaDOE procedures are revised and changed, this FAQ will be updated.*

### General Questions:

Question	Answer
Does a Local Education Agency (LEA) still need to use the provisional screening questionnaire/interview in the fall?	No, the provisional screening interview used last Spring 2020 is no longer valid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If in-person screening is possible, LEAs must use the standard WIDA Screeners.</li> <li>• If remote screening is necessary, LEAs may use the new WIDA Remote Screener.</li> </ul>
Do LEAs have flexibility on how long it takes to identify English learners and notify their parents this year, given all the challenges in opening school?	No, the federal statute timeline for notifying parents of a student's EL status and ESOL services <u>has not changed</u> . Please see the <a href="#">EL Language Programs – State Guidance</a> , pg. 9 “Timeline”: 30 days from the beginning of the school year, regardless of when students enroll during the school year.  The timeline for parent notification is 30 days after the beginning of school or with ten days of being placed in the EL program if the student enrolls after the beginning of the school year.
If the school is providing in-person instruction, but then is forced to close, does the 30-day timeline still apply and could our schools use the Remote Screener?	Yes. And Yes.
Could the Remote Screener be used if a school district is providing a hybrid model of instruction in the fall?	Yes, the Remote Screener may be used to screen students who are not in the same location as the test administrator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If students are in the school buildings, the standard WIDA Screeners must be used.</li> </ul>
Will the state provide funding to support the extra local costs for remote screening and rescreening?	The cost of screening potential English learners is funded through state/local funds.
Using an interpreter represents a significant additional cost as well as time constraint (scheduling a third party). It would help parents understand the remote screening protocol if our schools had a parent video in different languages or a document to share with parents who speak another language.	WIDA has not provided the state with parent communication (in several languages) about the Remote Screener. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, LEAs must provide the interpretation / translation services to the families to explain the purpose and methodology of the Remote Screener.</li> </ul>

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When schools notify parents of their child’s EL status after administering the Remote Screener, could we check the “WIDA Screener” Checkbox on the Parent Notification Letter or should we add another Checkbox for the new screener?	LEAs have flexibility to use the standard WIDA Screener Checkbox on the Parent Notification Letter, if desired; or the LEA may choose to add another checkbox for the new WIDA Remote Screener. The Parent Notification Letter is a WORD document template that can be personalized by the LEA.
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## Questions about the Administration of the WIDA Remote Screener:

Question	Answer
Could our schools use a secure video platform to administer the Remote Screener, instead of sending a packet of materials home and using a cellphone to ask the questions?	<p>The state recommends that LEAs follow WIDA’s guidelines and instructions for the administration of the new Remote Screener.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WIDA provides flexibility on how the video call is made to the student (phone or technology options).</li> <li>• LEAs have flexibility to determine the best way to administer the new WIDA Remote Screener in the most compassionate, health &amp; safety conscious manner.</li> <li>• Any deviation from WIDA’s standard screener administration procedures must be documented by the System Test Coordinator (STC) as a testing administration irregularity reported in the MyGaDOE portal.</li> </ul>
All students will be issued a Chromebook – could the examiner share a screen with the student and ask the questions via the secure platform?	WIDA provides flexibility on how the video call is made to the student (phone or technology options) to ask the questions. (See previous question/response)
Must the students have a hard copy of the pictures and/or reading passages to answer the screener questions?	<p>The state recommends that LEAs follow WIDA’s guidelines and instructions for the administration of the new Remote Screener.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If LEAs choose to present screener materials electronically, or in a manner different than what is described in WIDA guidelines and instructions, then this procedure must be documented by the STC on the testing irregularity form under ACCESS and submitted as the LEA’s chosen remote screener procedures.</li> <li>• If the testing materials are provided to the families in the manner prescribed by WIDA, a testing irregularity form does not need to be submitted.</li> </ul>
Would the STC need to submit the testing irregularity form for every student screened?	No, the testing irregularity form does not need to be submitted on an individual student basis. It can be submitted for the entire LEA remote screening process.
Is it correct to administer the K-1 WIDA Screener to a student in 1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2 <sup>nd</sup> grader?	Yes. In the 1 <sup>st</sup> semester of <u>any grade level</u> , except Kindergarten, you would normally administer the screener from the previous grade level. This is also true for the Remote Screener.
Will the state advise LEAs on how many days to send the screener materials home before scheduling the screener administration?	Please contact your System Testing Coordinator (STC).
Should the Remote Screener Score Sheet (fillable pdf) be maintained in student records?	Yes, the Remote Screener Score Sheet, like all Screener Score Sheets, is a legal document that should be maintained in the student’s records. It can also be uploaded to the EL

	Screener TAB in SLDS (under “other”) to facilitate transferring records, when necessary.
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## Questions about WIDA Remote Screener Outcomes:

Question	Answer
<p>Does the drop-down menu in the EL Screener TAB in SLDS have the Remote Screener as a choice?</p> <p>It is possible to upload the WIDA Remote Screener results in the SLDS EL Tab platform?</p>	<p>No, the drop-down menu does not include Remote Screener; However, it does have an “Other” option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose the “other” assessment in the drop-down menu and type in “Remote Screener”.</li> <li>• Then, fill in the Remote Screener results and the date.</li> <li>• This is the same way you would have recorded the information from an out-of-state screener.</li> </ul> <p>Yes, please upload the WIDA Remote Screener fillable pdf results form in this area as well.</p>
<p>After screening students with the Remote Screener, and after we identify them as EL and serve them, must the school re-screen these students with the regular “full” Screener? In other words, does the Remote Screener yield a temporary identification?</p>	<p>LEAs have the flexibility to choose whether to re-screen Kindergarten students.</p> <p>However, all students in grades 1-12 who are temporarily screened on the WIDA Remote Screener, must be re-screened using the standard WIDA Screener, when possible.</p>
<p>How would re-screening impact FTE and error reports if we flag these students as EL in our SIS, and when they return and complete the full Screener, they are later found to be ineligible?</p>	<p>If the LEA chooses to re-screen students <b>after</b> the Oct FTE, and the results show that they were really ineligible, please contact the <a href="mailto:ELPrograms@doe.k12.ga.us">ELPrograms@doe.k12.ga.us</a> or Data Collections to ask about relieving any subsequent data errors.</p> <p>At that point, these students would be coded EL=No, not EL “exited”.</p>
<p>If a re-screened student was found to not be eligible for EL status, and he had been coded EL=Yes in the SIS based on the Remote Screener, would the school then just delete the EL flag or would we code the student as an exited EL?</p>	<p>To qualify for the exited EL student status (EL=1, 2, 3, or 4), the student must have reached full English proficiency as demonstrated on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment, not via a screener.</p> <p>If the student does not qualify for EL status based on the scores of a standard Screener after administering a Remote Screener as well, the students would <b>not</b> be considered “exited”, but rather EL=No.</p>